The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way in which you use them.

Stonington Institute

North Stonington, CT
Andrea Keeney, Director of Admissions
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The Stonington Institute Intensive Residential Treatment Center serves adolescent males ages 12 through 18. They provide treatment for adolescents who are mild to moderate developmentally disabled, with co-occurring psychiatric diagnosis and/or with mild to moderate behavioral challenges. The children with mental retardation range in IQ from 50 – 70 and other Developmental Disorders treated include Borderline Intellectual Functioning (IQ to 75), Aspergers Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Autism.

Stonington Institute began serving recovering alcoholics in 1957 as Starlight Farms, a working farm where people in recovery were introduced to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. They have now changed to serve both substance abuse and psychiatric patients and are a freestanding, voluntary treatment facility in New England. William A. Aniskovich, M.A., J.D., is the CEO/Managing Director, and he has been with them since 2004. Andrea Keeney BS, is the Director of Admissions and is a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston. They operate partial hospital and outpatient clinics in Groton, Waterford, Willimantic and Danielson, Connecticut, as well as Westerly, Rhode Island. The Institute's programs are licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Connecticut Department of Children and Families, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and the Institute's special education services are approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

They offer a variety of step-down programs such as residential detoxification, ambulatory detoxification, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient care, early recovery group therapy, and evening intensive outpatient program. In home aftercare is available if needed. The facilities include playing fields, a high and low ropes course, a rock climbing wall, a pond for fishing, and plenty of hiking trails highlighting a serene setting.

[This information came from the Stonington Institute website]

Humiliating to human pride as it may be, we must recognize that the advance and even the preservation of civilization are dependent upon a maximum of opportunity for accidents to happen.

~ FA Hayek

Seen N Heard...

OBHIC Announces Wilderness Symposium Registration: OBHIC is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2012 Wilderness Therapy Symposium. The Symposium will take place September 21-23 in Boulder, CO. 510-367-3680

True North Recovery Services Expands: It is with great excitement that True North Recovery Services announces the opening a new location in Encinitas, CA so that we can better accommodate the needs of the patients. True North Recovery provides intensive outpatient services throughout California. 760-517-6544

Greenbrier Academy Announces New Clinical Directors: Greenbrier Academy is happy to announce that Ron Schwenkler has been accepted to a doctoral program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Denver in Colorado. He will continue as a valued member of the school as the Clinical Director over Aftercare. This has created a great opportunity for Greenbrier to further refine the administrative functions of the clinical department. In order to streamline and create efficiency in supervision and service, Ron will be working alongside Mike Beswick, who will serve as Clinical Director over Family Programs, and Ginger Conley, Clinical Director over Programming. 877-788-8422

Auldern Academy Welcomes Parent Coach Professionals: Auldern Academy is pleased to announce that we have recently our collaboration with Vicki Jones and Barb Cass of Parent Coach Professionals to provide a much needed service to our families. Each family will receive coaching at the beginning as they settle in and then again just prior to graduation as they plan for transition to other schools, home or college. 919-837-2336

IECA Announces Listing With Noodle.org: IECA is excited to announce that they have entered into an strategic arrangement with Noodle.org to include information about the Independent Educational Consultants Association, including a listing of all IECA Professional Members. 703-591-4850 ext. 6972

Changes at Pasadena Villa: Pasadena Villa is pleased to announce the promotion of Leighann Straughen, LMHC to Clinical Services Manager at our Florida location and Jeffrey Creech, MSW to Clinical Services Manager in Tennessee. Leighann Straughen, LMHC has worked in the mental health field since 2006 with children, adolescents, adults, and families. Jeffrey Creech, MSW has worked in the Mental Health field for 25 years in a variety of positions. 877-845-5235

Top Honors To FFS Musicians: The Family Foundation School received six top awards during its 18th annual appearance at the North American Music Festival at Hershey Park, PA. The school was awarded Superior trophies for Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Show Choir; a First Place trophy for Mixed Chorus; the Most Outstanding Choral Ensemble award; and the Outstanding Soloist-Choral Event award. FFS music director is Paul Geer; Tom Kovalesky is choreographer. 845-887-5213, ext 465

South Korean Delegation Visits reSTART: A three-person delegation from South Korea recently visited reSTART. Several years ago Korea named Internet Addiction their #1 Public Health Threat and recognized the addiction as a legitimate mental health disorder. The delegation came to reSTART to see how the first and only specialized residential treatment facility in the U.S. approached treatment for IAD. 800-682-6934

Pacific Quest Featured on Health and Wellness TV Talk Show: Key professionals at Pacific Quest's outdoor therapeutic program were interviewed on the Hawaii television talk show "Rise Above"

addressing mental health treatment for adolescents and young adults. The television program "Rise Above" invites speakers to share information on issues of importance related to health and wellness. This week's show focused on the growing rate of mental health disorders in youth, and how Pacific Quest's Sustainable GrowthTM treatment model provides an effective alternative to traditional wilderness and residential therapy for adolescents and young adults. 808-987-7809

Focus Point Program Visits Woodbury Reports: Ron and Heidi Mendenhall and Ranel Hanson visited Woodbury Reports to announce their new program, Focus Point Program. Focus Point Transition Program exists to serve young adults, age 18-24 years old who require guidance beyond high school. The professional staff is dedicated to enhancing self-confidence, independence and individual learning experiences. 208-946-7703



Rosecrance Chaplain Receives National Award: The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) awarded the Michael Q. Ford Journalism Award to Rosecrance Chaplain William (Bill) Lenters at the organization's annual conference, held May 19-22 in Phoenix, AZ. The award recognizes Lenters' long-running series of recovery-focused columns, which are published under the title "Bread for the Journey." The award is named for NAATP's first executive, Michael Q. Ford, who died in 1999. 815-387-5605

Rose Tea to Honor Quincy Noon Kiwanis Club: During Chaddocks Annual Rose Tea, Chaddock presented the 9th Annual Harry and Carlene Geisler Friend of Children Award to the Quincy Noon Kiwanis Club. The Quincy Noon Kiwanis Club is a part of a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. 217-222-0034 ext. 324

Academy at Swift River Introduces Young Adult Treatment: Academy at Swift River is pleased to announce our new Young Adult Transitions and Housing Program to help young adults find success within the community. Transitions program features include Individual, Family and Group Therapy, Internships, work study or college credit courses and full or part-time employment on/off-campus. Additional opportunities include for community service independent study, life skills training, and Etiquette: introducing societal norms. Residents have free time off-campus and work on self management and regulation. 800-258-1770

Lori Armbruster Joins Pacific Quest: Pacific Quest is very pleased to welcome Lori Armbruster to our ohana. Lori brings over 20 years of experience to her position at Pacific Quest. Lori has served as Executive Director of Consultant Relations, Admissions Director and Director of Alumni and Family Services and Development in several highly regarded therapeutic settings, from residential to wilderness. 808-987-7809

Charlie Bessette Will Be Missed: Charles F. Bessette, the beloved son of Judi and Fred Bessette died unexpectedly in May 2012. Charlie was 24 years old. He was embarking on a series of student internships in therapeutic programs for teens and young adults and was successfully concluding his initial steps on the journey to become a professional in the field. He will be greatly missed by his parents, his friends, his new colleagues in the helping professions, and the many students that he helped over the past two years and especially at the end of his life. Gifts in Charlie's memory can be made to the Friends of Families Foundation. 414-581-9146

Members Announce Formation of YATA: The Young Adult Transition Association - YATA - announced its formation, with the vision of providing a forum for the collaboration on young adult issues, operational issues, and other aspects related to providing young adult transitional services. Founding members include AIM House, Benchmark Transitions, Dragonfly Transitions, Echo Springs Transition Study Center, Fulshear Ranch Academy, and SFYI International School. 720-289-1525

Spring Ridge Academy Celebrates 15 Years: Spring Ridge Academy is proud to be celebrating our 15th anniversary as Arizona's premier therapeutic, college preparatory boarding school for girls. 928-632-4602

Asheville Academy Introduces Experienced Clinical Director: Asheville Academy for Girls is proud to formally introduce Michelle Lechman, PsyD, as Clinical Director. Dr. Lechman has specifically served as Clinical Advisor and Therapist for programs designed specifically for girls ages 10 to 14 for the past seven years. Her experience in therapeutic boarding schools for girls environment includes clinical consultation, supervision of staff, program development, counseling with students and families, as well as psychological testing. 800-264-8709

Wilderness Therapy Icon Moves On: After almost two decades of pioneering wilderness therapy, Dr. Daniel Sanderson announced he is leaving RedCliff Ascent."Doc" Dan joined RedCliff shortly after the company began in 1993. Since then he has helped thousands of troubled teens and their families find help and healing through effective wilderness therapy. "It's been an amazing journey," Dan says. "I have done what I want to be able to consider some incredible things and worked with some incredible people. I have given wilderness therapy a language that no one else has been able to incorporate and I've helped make the wilderness a place where real therapy can gain traction. "I want to acknowledge and recognize the courage of the students that I've worked with over the years. I'm grateful to have been a part of a number of miraculous journeys in that process and to have watched lives unfold." 800-898-1244

New Clinical Director at RedCliff Ascent: RedCliff Ascent is happy to announce Dr. Kreg Gillman has been named clinical director. Kreg has worked at every level of therapy and program administration since his career began two decades ago. His extensive management experience, coupled with his commitment to wilderness therapy, combine the best of both worlds. 800-898-1244

CONTINUED: SEEN N HEARD/14

Seen N Heard

Dr. Will White Announces Summit Achievement Traverse: Summit Traverse is a short-term, transitional, therapeutic boarding program for boys and young men aged 14 to 18+. Traverse is a family-centered treatment and intensive academic credit recovery to transition from treatment to a more traditional environment. Summit Traverse is currently accepting applications for boys and young men enrolling July 9, 2012. 207-697-2020

NSA Anniversary Request - Zach needs your help: Zach Lager was literally the first student at New Summit Academy over seven years ago. His parents were one of our greatest supporters and Zach himself stuck around Costa Rica throughout that initial month of preparation to put his stamp of approval on everything we chose. His dedication to helping has now expanded and we encourage any willing support. Zach's project, the Local Development Catalyst Network, raises money to better the situation of others. To help Zach, donate at www.ldcn.org/How_You_Can_Help.html. 414-921-1388

Healthy Choices Program At The Academy At Sisters: French fries, donuts, and Diet Cokes are a typical diet for a teenage girl, but at the Academy at Sisters, we are working to change that through a program called Healthy Choices. "The program goes well beyond just teaching girls to count calories," commented Connie Peters, an instructor at the Academy at Sisters who created the program. "The Healthy Choices Program focuses on everything from body image, to sports and exercise, to better nutrition." 800-910-0412

Pacific Quest Announces New Clinician Hire: Pacific Quest Wilderness Therapy is pleased to announce the addition of two new clinicians to our Ohana. Haley Robinson and Bridger Jensen will both be joining Pacific Quest in May as Primary Clinicians. 808-987-7809

Annual Adventure For Alpine Academy: Alpine Academy just returned from our annual adventure trip to Moab, UT. Every year Alpine takes all the students, teachers, therapists and residential staff down to Arches National Park for three days of camping, hiking, and enjoying the awe-inspiring vistas of the red rocks of Southern Utah. 800-244-1113

Auction Proves Successful For STICC: Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative and Guardian Angel Motorsports are pleased to announce the spectacular success of their recent charity auction. The two groups worked in collaboration with Chamberlain International School to auction a replica 1965 Shelby Cobra built by students in the Chamberlain automotive career program. Learn more here: http://youtu.be/S9vCBnU0GmQ. The Shelby replica sold at auction for $53,000. These funds will be used to help fund the intensive programs that have been shown to help teenagers and families in crisis. 978-852-2144

Parent Choices Hosts Programs Abroad: In an interview titled "The Pros and Cons of a Therapeutic Experience Abroad" Lon interviewed Heather Tracy, Co-Founder of New Summit Academy in Costa Rica, and Karen Nelson, Executive Director and Bryan Marks Admissions Director of Coral Reef Academy. In this episode, the guests discussed the pros and cons of students attending schools and therapeutic programs abroad. Heather: 414-921-1388 Karen: 702-997-7634 | Bryan 702-379-8106

Cedar Ridge Thanks Wes Nielson: After 16 years of dedicated service to Cedar Ridge, Wes Nielson has resigned his position as executive director of Cedar Ridge Academy to seek other career options. Rob Nielson stepped into the executive director position in his stead. 435-353-4498

> Life's purpose
> is to find one's purpose.
> ~ George Bernard Shaw

Parent Choices Hosts Det. Rich Wistocki: Lon recently interviewed Detective Rich Wistocki, a Special Investigator and a member of ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children), on the topic called "Protecting Kids from Online Predators," an interesting and yet terrifying topic for parents. Throughout the show, Detective Wistocki vigilantly stressed that "Parents must check and monitor their kid's online world." 630-305-0044

Cedar Ridge Summarizes Accreditation Visit: Cedar Ridge Academy is pleased to summarize the comments of the accreditation visiting team in response to our 2012 self-study. "The visiting team recommended Cedar Ridge Academy for a five year accreditation term through the new accrediting organization under AdvancEd. They further recommended an interim data visit to get some coaching on how to track data quantitatively. 435-353-4498

Dr. Park Joins Outback: Outback Therapeutic Expeditions is excited to announce Dr. Brandon Park as the newest addition to our clinical team. Brandon is a Clinical Psychologist who completed his graduate work at UNLV and has been working professionally in Napa, CA. Dr. Park has a rich background in neurospsychology, cognitive rehabilitation, and behavioral modification. He has worked with a variety of Axis I and II disorders, as well as substance abuse, and is an expert at evaluating and treating adolescents with clinically complicated presentations. Brandon joins Outback as Clinical Psychologist. 801-361-7782

WellBalance Announces Dr. Curran As Chief Medical Officer: WellBalance fitness and weight loss camps recently announced the addition of Gary Curran, MD, as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Curran has successfully started and operated a family practice where emphasis has been paid to helping families instill healthier habits. his role as Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Curran will advise on the medical data collection from weight loss campers, assist with data analysis, consult on specific camper conditions, and provide insight on WellBalance's fitness and weight loss approach. 800-975-0435

Edwards Joins Adirondack Leadership: Adirondack Leadership Expeditions is pleased to announce the appointment of Tracy Edwards to the position of Executive Director. Tracy joins ALE after working at both Bromley Brook School and The Academy at Swift River where she served as Director of Residential Life. 860-227-3316

OPI Changes Roanne Program Borderline Track: JCAHO-accredited Optimum Performance Institute continues its dynamic tradition of rapidly responding to the individualized needs of young adults by making significant programming changes to its Roanne Program for young adults with Borderline Traits, Borderline Personality Disorder and Co-Occurring Conditions. 888-558-0617

Four Circles Led Focus On Women Recovery Seminar: At the 26th Annual ADDICTION: Focus on Women (AFOW) Conference held in May, two experts from Four Circles Recovery Center, led a three-day seminar on incorporating experiential wilderness therapy into addiction recovery treatment. 828-891-2221

Attachment Advocacy Conference Scheduled For August: The Branson POWER Advocacy Intensive conference will be something new for families with children who suffer from attachment